

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

May 13, 2024

Vice Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza (AB2449 “just cause”, confirmed attendance after roll call), Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, McMillan, Pressman (teleconference posted location) entered after rollcall, Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Smith (AB2449 “just cause”).

Members absent: Directors Gray, Luna and Phan.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Erdman, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Seckel.

Director Smith indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to a contagious illness. He appeared by audio and on camera, and announced during roll call that no one was in the room with him.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Zinke, Stites, Sims and Novoa.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for April 8, 2024.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Dennstedt to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung,
Kassakhian, McMillan, Pressman, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Luna, and Phan.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent

Director Garza indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to a contagious illness. He appeared by audio and on camera, and announced no one was in the room with him.

Director Smith stated that no one was in the room with him.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Results of Focus Groups on Water Issues and Public Trust

Presented by: Tom Patras Principal and CFO, EMC Research

Mr. Tom Patras provided an update on the findings of focus group results on water issues and public trust. He discussed the key findings on the results of trust in public agencies and trust in water quality.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Peterson
- 2.) Fellow
- 3.) Dennstedt
- 4.) Armstrong
- 5.) Garza
- 6.) Ackerman
- 7.) Kassakhian

- b. Subject: Update on Education Programs

Presented by: Benita Horn, Team Manager – Education

Ms. Horn provided an update on the activities, events, and programs promoting conservation and stewardship for grades Pre-K through 12 and college.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Dick

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an abbreviated update on the state budget, Sacramento legislative calendar, and two year bills of interest, including climate bonds and water rights.

- d. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an abbreviated update on supported bills, including PFAS Liability Protection and Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, FY25 Appropriations Hearings, and FY25 Policy Proposal.

8. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Management Announcements and Highlights

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke deferred her full report. However, she called to the attention of the board a few items highlighting the value of water such as the External Affairs General Manager's report, Water Awareness Month, the new mwdh2o homepage, and the current social media campaign.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Vice Chair Kassakhian